

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A method for bandwidth conservation and bit rate reduction between two nodes in a serial bitstream network comprising TDM bonding multiplexers at a transmitting and a receiving end, said method comprising the steps of:

measuring differential delay between a number of transmission lines at the receiving end using FAS multiframe as reference for the measurement; and,

using a time compensation bit in every basic frame constituting a Multiframe for adjustment of said differential delay between a plurality of transmission lines at the receiving end; and,

using spare bits (Sa) as link identification bits to compensate for pair crossing, thereby securing correct transmitter and receiver timeslot sequence by said link identification.

20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of monitoring channel availability using bits selected from the group consisting of: [,] ~~such as~~ CRC-4, E-bit and A-bit.

21. (Cancelled).

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~[[21]]~~ 19, further comprising the step of calculating capacity of link identifications between transmitter and receiver identified by the spare bits using the expression 2^{Sa} .

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of compensating for $n \times 125\mu s$, where n is a number of

basic frames using said means for measurement of differential delay between a number of transmission lines at the receiving end.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein said method complies with ITU recommendation G.704.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein said TDM bonding multiplexers perform inverse multiplexing.

26. (Currently Amended) A system for bandwidth conservation and bit rate reduction in a serial bitstream network, comprising:

TDM bonding multiplexers at transmitting and receiving ends of said network;
means for measuring differential delay between a number of transmission lines at the receiving end using FAS multiframe as reference for the measurement; ~~and,~~

means for using a time compensation bit in every basic frame constituting a multiframe for adjustment of said differential delay between a plurality of transmission lines at the receiving end; and,

means for using spare bits (Sa) as link identification bits to compensate for pair crossing, thereby securing correct transmitter and receiver timeslot sequence by said link identification.

27. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 26, further comprising means for monitoring channel availability using bits selected from the group consisting of:[,] such as CRC-4, E-bit and A-bit.

28. (Cancelled).

29. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim ~~[[28]]~~ 26, further comprising means for calculating capacity of link identifications between transmitter and receiver identified by the spare bits using the expression 2^{S_a} .

30. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 26, further comprising means for compensating for $n \times 125\mu\text{s}$, where n is a number of basic frames using said means for measurement of differential delay between a number of transmission lines at the receiving end.

31. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 26, wherein said system complies with ITU recommendation G.704.

32. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 26, wherein said TDM bonding multiplexers perform inverse multiplexing.

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